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Sewing Shows in 2006

Happy New Year! This time of year we reflect on last year's accomplishments and plan for this year's adventures. A resolve to spend some well-deserved time on your fashion sewing activities may be something you are considering.

Sewing shows are a great way to enhance your sewing experience. Distinctive Sewing Supplies will be exhibiting at these sewing shows in Canada during 2006:

Sewing & Crafts Show—Victoria BC—March 10-11

Shop 'til you Drop at a dynamic range of Exhibits! Choose from over 75+ seminars taught daily by top professionals, designers authors and celebrity speakers! Free stage shows and

demonstrations all day long, beginners to experts... there's something for everyone! For more info visit www.sewingandcraftsshow.com.

Sewer's Forum SewFest—March 31-April 1—Bowmanville ON

This will be the 5th annual SewFest held just east of Toronto. Vendor, instructor and class information is available at www.sewersforum.com/sewfest.htm.

Creative Sewing & Needlework Festival—April 28-30—Mississauga ON

See, touch and buy the latest and greatest fabrics, patterns and notions. This show just gets better every year. Visit www.csnf.com for more information.

Creative Sewing & Needlework Festival—October 19-22—Toronto ON

Indulge in your passion and connect with like-minded creative enthusiasts at Canada's largest sewing show. Visit www.csnf.com for more information.

Inspirations Needlecraft Show—October 27-28, Ottawa ON

This is a show designed for anyone interested in needlecrafts, with lots of classes, fashion shows and exhibits. Check their website at www.inspirationsneedlecraft.com for the most up-to-date information.

DSS will hold daily trunk shows featuring batik rayon fabrics and garments that are easy to sew and comfortable to wear. ❖

More Folkwear—More Organized!

The amount of interest in Folkwear sewing patterns has dramatically increased. In response, DSS has stocked more patterns for faster shipping.

And to make your shopping experience even better, we

have reorganized the Folkwear patterns section of our website by categories (e.g. Asian, Caravan, Romantic, etc.) and have added a full index of all available patterns. We will special order any Folkwear pattern not normally kept in stock.

The newest pattern from Folkwear is #144 Tribal Style Belly Dancer. It is in stock and ready for immediate shipment. This exciting sewing pattern features instructions for sewing six garment pieces. ❖



#144 Tribal Style Belly Dancer

Surabaya Pants from The Bali Collection

About Surabaya Pants

Surabaya Pants is pattern No. 103 in the Bali Collection series from The Batik Butik. Information about the design, quality and high standards of the Bali

in many Eastern-style pants, making them very comfortable to wear.

The other pant versions are made through various combinations of wide and narrow legs; with or without the

waist tuck option, and includes side seam pockets. The crotch is higher than View E but still low enough for generous wearing ease.

The Elastic Waist Debate

Many sewers have told me that they just don't like elastic waists. For some it's the extra bulk of the gathers around their waistline. Elastic waistbands can crush and stretch out of shape with wear. I used to have the same misgivings until I tried the Bali Collection patterns.

I have never had a defined waistline. This is not a great figure feature for elastic waist pants—if you tuck a top into them. But for wearing under

tops that fall over the waistline they are wonderful. No one sees the elastic waist, only the drapery and flattering legs as they fall upon the ankles. Kintamani Top pattern no. 101 is a perfect coordinate for these pants.

A good quality waistband elastic is needed for garment style and longevity. BanRol Super Stretchy is ideal because it resists crushing and it can be sewn through without damaging the elasticity. It will outlast cheaper quality sports-style elastics.

If you want the waistband to show, the tuck option takes the extra bulk out. The sew-through waistband, when done with the proper elastic, mimics many designer-style ready-to-wear leisure garments.

The Right Stuff

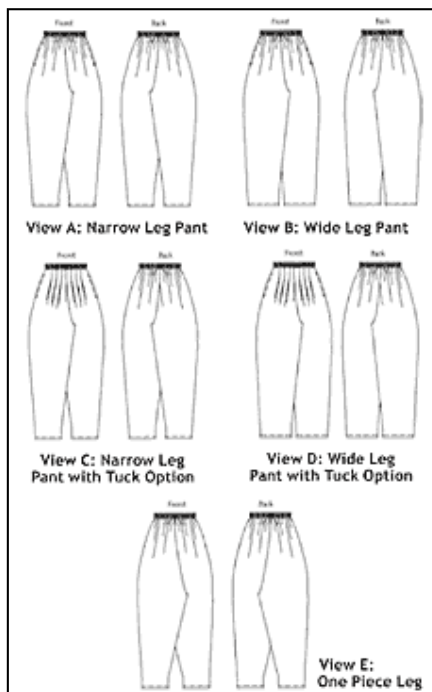
Choosing the right fabric for these pants is uncomplicated. They are designed for batik rayon from The Batik Butik. But any drapey fabric will work very



Collection sewing patterns is given in the September-October 2005 issue of Distinctive Sewing News which is available on our website in PDF format.

Lots of Options

With five variations of this pant pattern, you have lots of options to choose from. My favourite is View E. There are no side seams, and only one pattern piece. I use French seams for a clean inside finish but serged seams are a faster alternative. The crotch is quite low as



well. Jersey and interlock knits (e.g. BareKnits from Siltex Mills) are also appropriate.

In Summary

It's the quality drafting and grading that help ensure that this pattern results in a comfortable, wearable and flattering garment. With the right fabric and many options available, this is another great wardrobe builder. ❖

New Products and Services

Many changes are going on at DSS as we expand our products and services to meet your needs.

The Batik Butik Bali Rayon

This section of our website has been totally revamped. You can now look for fabrics by several categories including colour and latest designs. There is also an index of all available fabrics.

A new linen blend fabric has been added to our offering. This wonderful combination of linen, rayon and cotton is available in the *corona* colourways and solid black. New coronas include purple, turquoise, red and plum.

Any fabric that we don't have in stock but is available, we will order for you with a minimum purchase of 3 metres. Any purchase of \$100 or more is entitled to free shipping anywhere in Canada or mainland U.S.

The Sewing Workshop Collection

More pattern choices have been added to our stock for faster shipping. They are now organized by category (e.g. new, tops, bottoms, etc...) with a full index of available patterns. Patterns not in stock can be obtained through special order. We also offer a substantial discount for volume purchases. The regular price is \$29.95, but becomes \$25.00 each when three or more patterns are bought at once.

Incomparable Buttons

These wonderful hand painted ceramic buttons hail from South Africa. Very reasonably priced at \$7.50 per card, they can be just the added touch you need for

a ready-to-wear garment or your own creation. They are completely machine washable.

JHB Buttons

JHB are known for their quality and style at affordable prices. We have hand picked several styles ranging from classic to stylish, that will compliment our fabric choices. These will be up on the website later in February.

More Fabric Choices

We are expanding our fabric offering to give you more choices when it comes to your next sewing project. These items represent good value as they are priced reasonably to give you access to quality textiles for your fashion sewing projects. Here's what to look forward to in the next few months:

- A new designer fabric index to take you quickly to specific categories (e.g. wool, novelty, knit, etc.)
- Expanded fabric choices by weave, content and design (e.g. wool, silk, cotton, novelty)
- More batik rayon choices (e.g. Island Batiks and Princess Mirrah).

Distinctive Sewing News

Due to the expense involved with paper, printing and postage, we will discontinue mailing our newsletter with this issue. It will still be available online on our website. For those of you who have provided an e-mail address and permission, we will send you your newsletter electronically. And, you may unsubscribe at any time by sending an

email to info@distinctivesewing.com. We welcome any comments you have about our newsletter and website.

Waistband Elastic

We have been fortunate enough to secure a supply of 1-1/2" BanRol Super Stretchy. This waistband elastic works wonderfully on the Bali Collection sewing patterns. It is \$3.20 per metre. You will need your waist measurement less 2" for each pant or skirt pattern.

Lois Ericson Patterns

A new section will be added to the website for a smart selection of Lois Ericson sewing patterns. Known for her outstanding creativity when it comes to designing garments, there is likely to be something of interest here for the adventuresome fashion sewist.

A Word about Shipping

Shipping and postage are calculated at actual rates after we have weighed and packaged your order. Canada Post has recently raised its rates. But consider this. An order of \$100 or more gets you free shipping in Canada and mainland U.S. A trip to a quality fabric store (if you can easily get to one) may add expense for fuel consumption, vehicle wear, bus fares or parking. Ordering online is an alternative that may work for you when taking all things into consideration. ❖

Tip: For pucker-free seams when sewing long seams on drapery fabric such as batik rayon, use a slight zigzag stitch (width of 1.0 and length of 2.5). It really works!

Name:			
Mailing Address:			
Telephone:		E-mail address:	
Credit Card Type:	VISA or Mastercard	No.	Expiry

Shopping List - Visit www.distinctivesewing.com

Item No.	Description	Colour	Qty	Price	Total

You may place your order by completing the secure online Order Form at www.distinctivesewing.com.

Taxes and Shipping are extra. Orders of \$100.00 or more before taxes are eligible for free shipping within Canada and mainland USA.

We accept VISA, Mastercard, Money Orders (Canadian Dollars) and Personal Cheques drawn on a Canadian dollar bank account. Please include your telephone number and e-mail address so we can verify with you the amount of your order before processing.

Question? E-mail us at info@distinctivesewing.com

Up to three fabric samples can be mailed free of charge on request. Up to 10 fabric samples will be mailed upon receipt of your \$5.00 cheque (Canadian funds) made payable to Distinctive Sewing Supplies. This amount will be deducted from your next order.